

CITY OF FRESNO  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Policies & Procedures

---

ADDRESSING

ISSUE NO. 8

**TITLE:** VOLUME 1: ADDRESS NUMBERING SYSTEMS

**ESTABLISHED:** MAY 3, 1996

**STATEMENT:**

With the new computer permit system coming online, the Department is taking steps to organize a process for the addressing of properties. This issue, the first of a series on addressing, identifies and describes three addressing systems within the City of Fresno. The Planner will become versed in all three systems in order to properly address any parcel within the City.

**REFERENCES:**

Fresno Municipal Code;

Article 13, of Chapter 12 (The Zoning Ordinance), of the Fresno Municipal Code.

Development Department Policy;

The City has assumed the responsibility of using the County addressing system for those properties which are located in the Fresno County numbering area, but are within the incorporated area of Fresno.

**PROCEDURES:**

The first step in assigning an address is to determine the proper numbering system for a project. As noted in the statement above, there are three addressing systems within the City of Fresno.

A. There are two addressing areas defined in Article 13 of the Fresno Municipal Code (FMC).

1. **City-wide Addressing Area.** The overall City addressing area is bounded by Shaw Avenue on the north, Fowler Avenue on the east, North Avenue on the south, and Marks Avenue on the west. ***All properties on the boundary streets shall not be included in the City addressing area.*** Two exceptions to this area are; 1) any area within the City of Clovis, and 2) the downtown area described below. See attached EXHIBIT "A" that illustrates the boundary between the City and County addressing areas.

- a. The base (or zero) line for addressing east-west streets is Thorne Avenue. Street numbers shall increase going easterly or westerly, away from the base line. Odd street numbers shall be on the left side of the street, and even street numbers on the right side of the street as you move away from the base line.
- b. The base line for addressing north-south streets is the combination of Nielsen, Divisadero, and East Tulare Avenues. Street numbers shall increase going northerly or southerly, away from the base line. Odd street numbers shall be on the left side of the street, and the even numbers on the right side of the street as you move away from the base line.

2. **The Downtown Area.** The downtown area is characterized by the street pattern that reflects the railroad tracks; northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest directions. Attached EXHIBIT "B" defines the extent of this area.

- a. The base line for addressing northeast-southwest streets is at the intersection of Fresno Street and East California Avenue. Street numbers increase going northeasterly away from the base line. Odd numbers are on the left side of the street, and even numbers are on the right of the street.
- b. The base line for addressing northwest-southeast streets is at the intersection of "L" Street and East Hamilton Avenue. Street numbers increase going northwesterly away from the base line. Odd numbers are on the left side of the street, and the even numbers are on the right side of the street.

Refer to Section 12-1302-(d) FMC for the exact description of this area and the base lines used for the downtown area.

B. The City numbering system incorporates a "factor" used in determining the appropriate street number for a specific property. There are, in fact, three "factors"; the 3.3 foot factor, the 6.6 foot factor, and the 13.2 foot factor. Within each category, the numeric value represents the linear distance along the street between each number. For example; in the 3.3 foot factor, there is 3.3 feet between address numbers 100 and 101. While it may be

difficult to decipher, try to determine the "foot factor" used in the existing addresses, and apply that factor to your project.

To determine the exact address number for a property take the following steps.

1. Determine the distance from the street intersection located nearest the addressing baseline to the property.
  2. Determine the appropriate "factor" number being used in the existing addressing.
  3. Divide the distance found in (a) by the factor found in (b). This is the proper street number for the property. If necessary, add or subtract one number to match odd or even side of the street. An adjustment may be necessary to match the existing sequence.
- C. Be sure to double check that the street number you assign meets the criteria for odd/even, and that it fits into the existing numeric sequence.

#### County Addressing System

- A. All other properties within the incorporated area of the City of Fresno, shall be assigned a street number using the County of Fresno Addressing System.
1. The County system includes all properties fronting on, and having access to, the boundary streets of Shaw, Fowler, North and Marks Avenues.
    - a. The base line for addressing east-west streets is North Blackstone and South Elm Avenues. Street numbers shall increase going away from the base line with even numbers always on the north side of the street, and odd numbers always on the south side of the street.
    - b. The base line for addressing north-south streets is West Whitesbridge Avenue and East Kings Canyon Road. Street numbers shall increase going away from the base line with odd numbers always on the west side of the street, and even numbers always on the east side of the street.
  2. The County numbering system is based on Section Lines. Each Section is, of course, one mile square. Each mile, or Section side, contains 1,000 address numbers. In other words, for each mile travelled away from a base line, there will be 1,000 address numbers (a the range from 001 - 999). Also, each one-half mile is designated as the "500" block.

To illustrate, Shaw Avenue is the boundary of the north 5000 block. Barstow Avenue, one-half mile north of Shaw Avenue, is the beginning of the north 5500 block. This concept is also applicable in an east-west direction.

3. The County numbering system incorporates a "factor" used in determining the appropriate street number for a specific property. Attached EXHIBIT "C" illustrates the factors and their location.
  4. To determine the exact address number for a property take the following steps.
    - a. Determine the distance from the next lower section line (even thousand number) to the property.
    - b. Determine the appropriate "factor" number to be used (see exhibit "c").
    - c. Divide the distance found in (a) by the factor found in (b). This is the proper street number for the property. If necessary, add or subtract one number to match odd or even side of the street. An adjustment may be necessary to match the existing sequence.
- B. Be sure to double check that the street number you assign meets the criteria for odd/even, and that it fits into the existing numeric sequence.

**FINIS**

CITY OF FRESNO  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Policies & Procedures

---

**TITLE:** VOLUME 1: ADDRESS NUMBERING SYSTEMS

**ESTABLISHED:** MAY 3, 1996

**STATEMENT:** History of Changes

Date of Revision	Changes To	Comment
---------------------	---------------	---------